



# Bicycle Access Council News & Digest

www.BicycleAccess-PA.org

June 2007

## ***It's a beautiful day in Pennsylvania!***

This issue of the **Bicycle Access Council News & Digest** is a monthly communication with members and supporters. You may view past issues that started in January 2005 by going to the **BAC** website.

## **RED LIGHT CAMERAS...**

Will detect a motor vehicle entering an intersection during the red phase of a traffic signal. These are not full time surveillance or speed detection cameras. Automated Red Light Cameras are meant to be used to improve safety at intersections with high incident rates through violation enforcement. Knowing how they work and the limits of these devices should be of interest to bicyclists and pedestrians.

At this time, only the city of Philadelphia is permitted to install these devices at six designated locations as listed in the Pennsylvania Vehicle Code, §3116. The enforcement is administered by the Philadelphia Parking Authority, although the police department issues the citations once they receive the identified violators and review the photo evidence.

The owner of a vehicle (which may not be the driver) is liable for the violation, which is a non-criminal fine of \$100. No points may be charged against a driver's record or affect an insured's automobile insurance rate.

Each camera is a "wet film" type (35mm)—not digital, although digital information is overlaid on the print (date, time, etc). Only the rear view of a vehicle is permitted to be taken to capture the registration plate. Detectors in the roadway activate the camera. They are not sensitive to detect bicycles, which is unnecessary since there is no registration plate to photograph.

The effectiveness of these red light enforcement cameras is still being evaluated and debated before allowing their use in other areas of the Commonwealth. They are a benefit to bicyclists in Philadelphia who are vulnerable to red light running motor vehicles on multi-lane roadway intersections.

## **YA GOTTA KNOW WHEN TO FOLD 'EM...**

"Folding Bikes" that is, when taking the train. The AMTRAK policy allows folding bikes onboard, but not all conductors and personnel were aware of this. They are now thanks to the persistence of a bike commuter when he was denied access. A change to the *Conductor Service Rule Book* now documents the policy clearly. When in doubt, carry a copy of the policy with you, which may be found at: <http://tinyurl.com/2m9lh1>

A story about what it took to make this happen was written by John Boyle and appears in the May-June issue of the *American Bicyclist*, published by the League of American Bicyclists.

Other transit modes may also present problems, such as, Philadelphia's SEPTA and DC's METRO. It's best to plan ahead and check the policies beforehand to minimize the chance of being denied access to one of these transit services at a very inconvenient time and location.

## **AN IRONIC PICTURE...**

Appeared in the *The Evening Sun* (Hanover, York County) newspaper featuring the BAC executive director at a rail trail groundbreaking. The irony? He was the only one who brought a bike and rode twenty miles to get to the ceremony. Check out: <http://tinyurl.com/32lf14>

**BIKE PHILLY...**

Will close some streets to motor vehicle traffic Sunday, September 9, 2007 for this event sponsored by the Bicycle Coalition of Greater Philadelphia. According to the Bike Philly organizers, "A family friendly bike tour celebrating the freedom of car-free Philadelphia streets. Bicyclists will ride through historic neighborhoods, taking over the parkway, passing through Old City, and exploring hidden corners of Fairmont Park." The ride start is 8:00 am at the Art Museum steps. To register and for more details, see [www.bikephilly2007.com](http://www.bikephilly2007.com)

**PA BIKE CLUB SPECIAL EVENTS RIDES...**

May be listed on the BAC website. Submit your club ride with dates, location, fees etc. to the BAC webmaster at: < [info@BicycleAccess-PA.org](mailto:info@BicycleAccess-PA.org) > Charity rides requiring pledges and other fundraising rides not sponsored by a Pennsylvania bike club are not listed.

**DIRECTOR CANDIDATES...**

The Bicycle Access Council is accepting letters of interest for future director positions. Send a narrative letter indicating your desire to become involved in bicycling advocacy in Pennsylvania. Include your education, any experience serving on a board of directors, fund raising experience, and a summary of your bicycling experience. All letters received will be kept confidential.

Send all letters to:

Bicycle Access Council, P.O. Box 92, Dallastown, PA 17313, or

E-mail to: [ED@BicycleAccess-PA.org](mailto:ED@BicycleAccess-PA.org)

**DATES TO REMEMBER:**

**June 7, PPAC** (Pedalcycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee), Harrisburg, 1 PM.

Contact BAC for meeting location and agenda

**July 12-14, LCI Seminar** (League Cycling Instructor certification), Bethlehem, PA

Contact Steve Schmitt at CAT: [director@car-free.org](mailto:director@car-free.org)

**MISSION STATEMENT...**

The Bicycle Access Council is a non-profit advocacy organization that serves as a forum for Pennsylvania bicyclists and as an ombudsman for bicycling issues.

It is the objective of the Bicycle Access Council to make bicycling on roads throughout the Commonwealth safe, respectable and a transportation choice by educating its members and the motoring public.

All funding for the Bicycle Access Council comes from memberships and donations. Annual membership is \$20 per year. BAC does not share membership information.



Joe Stafford, Executive Director  
Bicycle Access Council  
Dallastown, PA  
[www.BicycleAccess-PA.org](http://www.BicycleAccess-PA.org)  
(717) 417-1299